

OLD WANDERER'S RETURN

BOURNEMOUTH centre-half John Delaney, who left the bright lights to enter the big-time, returns to his old amateur club again.

Delaney played for Wycombe Wanderers, who are at home to Bournemouth in the FA Cup second round on Saturday.

Delaney says: "I had four seasons at Wycombe and used to enjoy the London night life."

Now 33-year-old John lives in the quiet Dorset village of Cote Hill.

Welcome

He said: "My night life now consists of an early evening game of darts. But I love it here."

Delaney can expect a hero's welcome from an all-ticket crowd of 16,000 on Saturday.

Wycombe chairman Jack Smethurst claims this club have the

best attendances outside the League.

Former Bournemouth manager John Bond snapped up Delaney two years ago after Wycombe had invited Bournemouth to play them in a friendly.

Though the Third Division side won 3-1 the 6ft 2in Delaney impressed Bond with his dominance in defence.

Smethurst said: "We were sorry to see John go. He seemed to control both penalty boxes for us."

"He was superb in defence and he would also stick in 15 goals a season."

Delaney won't be looking down his nose at his former Wycombe colleagues. He said: "They have some great players like Mick Hollifield in midfield and Tony Horsman up front."

"And they have produced wonderful players like Viv Busby for Fulham, Peter Suddaby for Blackpool and Kenny Swain for Chelsea."

Bournemouth don't believe in fairy tales. They have crushed several non-League clubs in recent seasons.

In 1956-57 they annihilated

Burton Albion 8-0; in 1964-65 they slaughtered Gravesend and Northfleet 7-0 and 1970-71 they overcame Oxford City 8-1.

Southern League Margate were the victims of an 11-0 massacre, with Ted MacDougall hitting a record nine goals, in 1971-72.

MacDougall isn't there now, but Bournemouth are in the second round after disposing of Southwick 5-0.

But proud Wycombe are certain that Third Division strugglers Bournemouth will be the giant-killers if they win on Saturday.

Smethurst says: "We have won the Isthmian League in three of the past four years. And last season we knocked Fourth Division Newport out of the Cup."



JOHN DELANEY . . . can expect hero's welcome.

Bournemouth no pushover warns Lee

WYCOMBE manager Brian Lee is not among those who make his Rothman's Isthmian League champions red-hot favourites to blast Third Division Bournemouth out of the FA Cup tomorrow.

"People keep trying to tell me Bournemouth are the underdogs—but I don't see it that way at all," says Lee, the Director of Bisham Abbey Recreation Centre.

"Bournemouth are not as bad as some people are trying to make out. All they are lacking is confidence and if they are given the slightest encouragement they will start to play well."

Briefing

"It's up to us to see that they don't get this encouragement. I shall expect my lads to hustle them from the start and not allow them to settle."

"We know Bournemouth will have a thorough briefing on us from their centre half John Delaney who used to play for Wycombe and knows all about us."

Successful Wycombe faced a big problem this year with the departure of striker Larry Pritchard—one of the best players in the game—to Sutton.

But Lee filled the gap well by bringing in Howard Kennedy, a 21-year-

CUP COUNTDOWN
edited by
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old who preferred teaching to a career with Burnley.

The man Bournemouth fear most is 25-year-old midfielder player Mike Hollifield, who forced his way into the England amateur squad last season.

NON-LEAGUE Wigan expect their best gate in years for tomorrow's second round tie against Fourth Division leaders Mansfield. And among the anticipated 15,000 crowd will be Neil Slack.

The 27-year-old bricklayer will pedal 80 miles to Lancashire to cheer Mansfield. He always travels to away games by his racing bike and has covered about 1,700 miles this season.